

Intimations.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Established A.D. 1841.

WATSON'S PRICKLY HEAT LOTION
is the safest and best cure for Prickly Heat, it
affords instant relief, and will be found useful in
allaying all irritation of the skin whether arising
from additio or caused by the bites and stings of
insects. It is also a useful Toilet Article for the
complexion.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
London, 11th July 1888.

BIRTH.
On July 31st, at No. 12, Praya East, Hongkong,
the wife of H. KENNEDY, of a daughter. 1756

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1888.

The announcement that the Court of Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation have decided to recommend to the shareholders, as a result of the last half year's working, a dividend of thirty shillings per share, to place a lakh of dollars to the credit of the Reserve Fund, and to carry \$10,000 forward to new account, has been received with considerable astonishment, not altogether unmixed with dissatisfaction, even in circles which have the credit of being unusually well informed regarding the Bank's affairs.

A very much better result was confidently predicted, and that these predictions were based on information of the character that is popularly known as "Inspired" is plainly enough evidenced by the daily reports in our columns of the business transacted in Bank shares on the local Stock exchange during the past two months. It is an open secret that the Directorate expected to be in a position to add to the Reserve Fund, after paying a 30/- dividend, the handsome sum of \$300,000—or, at least, certain influential members of the Court were credited with statements to that effect. Assuming all this to be true, and we can see no valid reason to doubt its accuracy, "someone has blundered" to the tune of two lakhs of dollars, and shareholders are once more presented with a problem of finance which suggests some very disagreeable memories of a somewhat similar "misunderstanding," although only involving half the amount just named, that caused some unpleasant commotion when the last Report was issued. The success of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has been phenomenal and, notwithstanding the array of talent at the helm of affairs, so have its blunders, of which latter these repeated miscalculations, leading to alleged heavy losses in exchange—*vide* the never to be forgotten Manila disaster—and repeated earthquakes amongst the sharebroking fraternity, are of more importance than is generally credited. As the Bank's report for the past half year has not yet been published, we are, of course, unable to indicate in what direction to look for some explanation of the amount placed to Reserve only totalling one third of what had been accepted on semi-official authority as a matter of certainty, and until that important and anxiously looked for document has seen the light, it would serve no useful end to indulge in idle speculation. But we may nevertheless express the opinion that it is a great pity, and much to be deplored, that unpleasant matters of this kind should be constantly cropping up in connection with the direction of an institution of which Hongkong and the Far East generally have so much reason to be proud.

TELEGRAMS.

(From Straits Times.)
RUSSIA AND GERMANY.
London, July 24th.
The Emperors were present at a grand review at Kranoscelo.

FRANCE.
General Boulanger has sustained a heavy defeat at the Ardeche election.

PARLIAMENT.
July 25th.
The second reading of the Parnell Inquiry Bill was adopted without a division.

GERMANY.
The Emperor has started for Stockholm.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

SEÑOR Antonio da Costa, Governor of Timor, has resigned his post, owing, it is said, to the measures he adopted for inflicting due punishment on the perpetrators of the murder of the late Governor Maia, being disapproved by the Lisbon Government.

Some correspondence has recently taken place between the French Minister of Marine and the Messageries Maritimes Company on the subject of conveying invalids by their steamers on the China line, the result of which is that in future invalids and sailors will not be carried.

THE Chinese corvette *Kwang Kap*, arrived this morning from Canton.

A REGULAR meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 515, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, this evening, at 8.30 for 9 o'clock, precisely, visiting brethren are cordially invited.

We would call attention to Mr. A. Hahn's advertisement in another column, by which it will be seen that he is selling off his stock of musical instruments and toys at reduced prices, during the present month.

THE following changes of stations, &c.: In the Ordnance Store Department are announced—Captain G. Hearne, Portsmouth to China, vice Atkinson, to Weymouth; Capt. T. Heron, Dover to Singapore, vice Wright, to Portsmouth; Quartermaster W. Johnson, China, to Relived List.

THE relief which lately arrived at Macao by the Portuguese transport *India*, numbered 13 officers, 9 buglers and 40 men. The *Independent* dwells at great length on this fact, and for once, in its long record of mock patriotism, styles the landing of such a force in the Holy City an unqualified success.

Mr. Thomas, manager of the Peak Hotel charged a coolie with throwing noxious water into a drain at the Peak Hotel on the 31st ult. and also on the 1st inst. Defendant was fined \$5 but being unable to pay, went to gaol for a month, with hard labour.

For keeping an agency for the sale of lottery tickets, a Chinaman living at No. 35 Market Street, was summoned by Acting Inspector Baker. Defendant denied that he sold lottery tickets. An informer was then placed in the witness box, who said he went to the house in question yesterday and staked some money with defendant, who gave him a ticket which he now produced. The accused said he sublet the cockpit, where he lived, to six men, but he did not issue the ticket produced by the informer. He did not know the business of the six men and had no witnesses to certify to his own way of earning a living. He was fined \$30, or in default of payment, six weeks in prison with hard labour.

The master of a bullock junk was charged by Inspector Mathieson with anchoring within 50 yards of the Telegraph Cable at Tai Kok Tsui this morning. The accused admitted the charge and was fined \$10, which he paid.

A brother keeper was charged by Insp. C. Baker with intimidating a witness on the 28th ult. Mr. Dennis appeared for the defence. Wing Sing, an informer, said he was standing outside the police court on the 28th ult., when defendant in passing out said "you take care where you stand; I will kill you the first chance I get, I don't care how much money it costs."

The case being proved against the accused, he was committed for trial, bail being taken in two suites of \$250 each.

The Fanta gambling monopoly was put up for public tender at Macao on the 3rd inst., but did not fetch any offer. Several firms had made a petition requesting the suppression of one of the articles of the contract; but as the myrmidons of the Macau Treasury turned a deaf ear to the request, no one came forward to make a tender, and thus the farming of this popular enterprise in the Holy City has been left in abeyance. It is said, a new auction will shortly be held.

This Rome correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle* writes under date June 25th:—As I recently informed you, the Pope will shortly address another letter to the Irish bishops relative to the decree of the Holy Office condemning the Plan of Campaign and boycotting. The statements of the Irish papers that the Pope will retreat from the position he has taken up are entirely false. On the contrary, the Pope will—and probably in his letter to the Irish bishops—take the opportunity of reiterating the condemnation pronounced by the Holy Office, although at the same time his Holiness will probably add that he is opposed to the national aspirations of the Irish people so long as these are confined within the bounds of legality and morality.

An improved method of distributing oil on the waters has lately been patented in Germany. It consists of a rocket to which is attached a cylinder filled with oil. It is said that the rocket can be fired with accuracy from the ship, and that when it explodes, the oil is scattered just where it is wanted. By the explosion of five rockets at a distance of from 1,400 to 1,500 feet from the ship a space of 1,500 to 2,000 square feet of water was covered with oil and the waves were at once smoothed. The rocket was fired 500 feet against a gale. The importance of the invention to deep-water sailors consists in the certainty of explosion of the rocket at a sufficient distance to leave the vessel in calm water during a gale. The invention is said to have been purchased by the North German Lloyd.

LAST evening an immense crowd of natives lined the Praya around the Canton Wharf to witness the destruction of a large submerged rock by blasting. It was a boulder about the size of a one-storey house, and weighed about two hundred tons, and its removal had long been contemplated, owing to its preventing the Canton steamer from lying well alongside the jetty. About five o'clock a diver went down and placed five pounds of dynamite in a hole about five feet deep, that had been drilled in the stone. The surrounding area was cleared, and the cartridge electrically exploded by Mr. Mudge, of the New Dock Works, who had directed the work. Only a low report was heard, and a slight bubble seen over the spot, much to the disappointment of the spectators. Half the rock was destroyed, however, and the remaining part will be broken up next week.

SAYS the Bangkok Times of the 21st July:—Dysentery, that scourge of Europeans, has claimed yet another victim from among us to swell its already lengthy death-roll. Mr. F. T. Bacon, second engineer of the steamer *Hecate*, was admitted to the Bangkok Hospital on the 26th of last month, but in spite of the best medical skill and the most careful nursing, he succumbed to the fatal malady early on the morning of the 19th instant and was buried the same evening. In mentioning this sad event we feel it our duty to publicly record the benevolent and unselfish kindness shown to deceased by both Mrs. Heck and Mrs. Mackay, who nursed the patient and did all that tender womanhood could do to comfort and soothe the last hours of a fellow being dying in a strange land. The quiet, useful, unpretentious example shown by these two ladies will, we trust, be laid to heart, and emulated by others who are so very anxious to do something really useful.

SCENE—Vestibule of the Hongkong Hotel, Time—mid-day. Large congregation of long pedigree brokers—"dead" and otherwise—engaged in the usual interesting occupation of hounding each other and laying plans for the discomfiture of the Philistines. Enter a well-known and popular operator who, strangely to say, had "got left" in the great Sugar boom. Great excitement and mysterious whispers among the ancients. Popular operator lounges up to bar and asks a friend to "have a smile" friend acquiesces and they accordingly "smile" in giving cocktails. Brokers commence to loaf round on the off chance of picking up a crumb. Popular operator continues to sympathetic friend that he had been badly hit in Sugars. "Were you a bull or a bear?" asked the sympathetic one who, having been absent from the colony, was not acquainted with the recent revolutionary movement in the local stock market. Popular operator looked significantly round at the cloud of locusts hovering in the vicinity, and pulling his hat down firmly over his brow, grimly replied—"I was neither a bull nor a bear; I was a d—d jackass."

WE do not necessarily endorse the opinion expressed by Correspondents in this column.

THE GARDEN SEATS.

To THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH".

SIR.—A letter in your paper of yesterday's date regarding the limited supply of seats in the Botanic Gardens reminds me that I have been for some time intending to call your attention to this difficulty. It has doubtless occurred to

us are informed by the agents (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) that the "Glen Liner *Glenary*, from London, left Singapore yesterday for this port.

ACCORDING to the *Straits Times*, Singapore of late has become a place of refuge for Chinese dealers who had defrauded European merchants at Batavia and other ports in Java. Recently, many Chinese second-hand dealers, after collecting such as many ready money as they could, have bolted from there to Singapore before the acceptance due by them for goods delivered had expired. The mercantile community at Batavia has been so put out by it that they intend to petition the Governor-General of Netherlands India in favour of special legislation to stay the mischievous.

THE following cases came before Mr. Sercombe at the Police Court this morning:—

Mr. Thomas, manager of the Peak Hotel charged a coolie with throwing noxious water into a drain at the Peak Hotel on the 31st ult. and also on the 1st inst. Defendant was fined \$5 but being unable to pay, went to gaol for a month, with hard labour.

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To THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH".

SIR.—A letter in your paper of yesterday's date regarding the limited supply of seats in the Botanic Gardens reminds me that I have been for some time intending to call your attention to this difficulty. It has doubtless occurred to

many people in this colony that they have accompanied ladies to the Gardens to hear the Band, and have been compelled to stand through the greater part of the performances owing to the simple fact that there are not seats enough who go there. To object to the soldiers of the Regiment, or to any other respectable person occupying seats is manifestly absurd; what is wanted is more sitting accommodation, but if a greater number of seats cannot be supplied without spoiling the appearance of the Gardens, why not make a small charge for the seats for the benefit of the Gardens, of the bandsmen, and if desirable for the benefit of the rank and file of the Regiment? There are scores, may be hundreds, of people who would gladly pay, say twenty-five cents for five tickets which would give them the right to either five sittings at one time, or to five seats on different occasions. To those who, having had a seat, and after walking some little time, required another, let them tear off from a coupon or hand out from a parcel another ticket, arranged much in the same way as tramway tickets are managed in some parts of Australia. As this would create a fund for the benefit of the Band, or of the Gardens, there are surely very few people who would object to patronise it. Soldiers, by the way deserve a much better social position in life than the world generally accords them, could have a considerable concession made in their favour if not admitted free. There are few people who have any idea what a considerable fund such a system would create in the course of a very few months, and there are still fewer, I believe, who would object to pay a few cents to be able to sit down and hear a fine musical concert in comparative comfort. Such a system was found necessary in Hyde Park many years ago, and although the chairs are costly and let at a penny each, still they return a revenue of something like £10,000 a year. If any of your readers can suggest something better than this, and which will be more acceptable to the public and to the military, pray let us hear from them; but in the meantime something should be done to draw the Gardens during band nights, hundreds who really have to remain away on account of a lack of seats.

Yours faithfully, CITIZEN.

Hongkong, August 1st, 1888.

CITIZEN.

A REAL GRIEVANCE.

To THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH".

SIR.—I trust you will publish far and wide, by inserting this letter in your widely read paper, the terrible treatment of some China and Japan hands on the Canadian Pacific Railways, that others following in their footsteps may be spared similar suffering, and so be able to appreciate the otherwise perfect arrangements for their comfort and enjoyment the magnificent scenes on the route.

No whisky or any other spirit is obtainable on any of the dining cars or at the dining stations. At one station where a party of us stayed over a train 24 hours, the only liquids openly procurable were sulphur water and tea and coffee made with the same.

There are ways of getting more desirable fluids known unto the native, but not to

Yours truly,

THE LATE OWNER OF A 4-COOLIE CHAIR.

Windsor Hotel, Montreal, 7th June, 1888.

NEWS BY THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL.

The E. & A. Co.'s steamship *Taunadice*, Capt. N. Shannon, arrived in harbour last night from Sydney and ports of call. For the subjoined telegrams we are indebted to our Colonial exchanges:

LONDON, June 28th.

At the International Conference on Foreign and Colonial Missions, to be held at Lambeth, Bishop Barry, of Sydney, will open a discussion on doctrinal standards. Dr. Moirhouse, Bishop of Manchester, and Dr. Stanton, Bishop of North Queensland, will speak on the relation of the Council to the Maritime Labour Council, and arranged to-morrow morning. Negotiations were reopened to day by Captain Morse, of the San Francisco mail service. Representatives of the Council waited on Captain Morse this morning regarding his offer to withdraw the Chinese from his return to San Francisco, and not to bring any more Asiatics to the colony. It is understood that Captain Morse repeated his offer, and asked the Council not to resort to unnecessary harsh measures in enforcing what they regarded as their legitimate demands. He pointed out that the Council could scarcely with reason insist on similar suffering, and so be able to appreciate the otherwise perfect arrangements for their comfort and enjoyment the magnificent scenes on the route.

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is an overflow often at many points causing the most extreme misery in wide areas. The whole plain slopes more or less decidedly to the northeast, and the nearer any place is to the fatal spot where these many waterways unite, radiating toward a common centre like the ribs of a fan, the more certain it is that such place will be more or less remediously drowned. In addition to the general slope of the country to the east and north, there are great depressions, from which immemorially there have been marshes and lakes. The great road from Peking to the south passes directly through one of these wide lakes, on a causeway of earth, which in some form seems to have existed from very ancient times. The northern branch of the Ta Ch'ing river is crossed on a bridge at a city called Hsiang Hsien, and from this point southward for a distance of about 20 miles, the road is a raised bank, impassable in times of flood, and often extremely dangerous and insecure for a long time after such flood. Every few miles bridges are crossed to the total number, it is said, of twelve. Those who are familiar with the tedious delays at Chinese ferries, are always glad to see a river that has a bridge, or even twelve of them. But let him not rejoice too soon lest it happen to him as to us, to hit upon the exact time, when after the usual interval of fifteen or twenty years, the bridges undergo repair. In some countries this would be done by a concentration of effort, in a single night, so as not to interrupt traffic, or one half of each bridge would be renewed at a time, with the same end in view. The bridges are far too narrow for the adoption of the latter plan, which, however, it is safe to say, never entered any Chinese skull. There is an ornamental portal in the city of Hsing Hsien, which affirms that this is the gate-way to "the provinces," but if it were the gate-way to the whole universe, the repairs of the bridges would be conducted exactly as they are now, and presumptively ever have been. The thick layer of earth laid down from the heavy planks, the piles are removed, and the highway to "nine provinces," at once becomes impassable for carts. But, as the saying goes, there no river that cannot be crossed, and now comes the opportunity of the keen-scented boatmen who have long foreseen this state of things impending, and have accordingly mustered their scows for the occasion. Each cart must be laboriously lowered into some leaky punt, the animals must be led by some devious and mysterious route, and the traveller is treated to a boattride in the midst of his land journey. In our case this lasted for an hour, the route lying through broad expanses of clear water, and again through narrow and tortuous channels, which are in reality the lanes between different farms. The enforced transit by canal affords an excellent opportunity to see details of agriculture, which this singular compound of land and water requires. There can be no doubt that the lakes or marshes of which this is a sample, are far more productive in the way of supporting population than so much dryland. The average depth of the water cannot be great, and the greater part of the territory, as is usual in such cases, is covered with a dense and beautiful growth of the *Arundo Indica*, the reed of which the Chinese make such excellent use in weaving mats. It is valuable not only for this purpose, but is employed also in the construction of light and easily portable fences, which are everywhere seen protruding from the surface of the water, being intended to serve as barriers against the escape of the fish which have inadvertently got among them. In many places the cormorant fishing, so often described by travellers in China, may be seen, and where the water is shallow, a common way is to take a basket, which has no bottom, and give it a sudden downward thrust into the mud. If any fish are enclosed, they will not be long in making their presence known, and can be readily taken. In a good fishing ground, the number of fish rapidly taken in this way, is surprising. In some parts of the marshes, enormous flocks of ducks are reared, which, when settled in one spot, occupy as much space as an ordinary Chinese village. Many little villages seem to have been built almost in the water, but they are probably a little above what experience shows to be the high-water mark. The foundations are generally of brick and the gently sloping roofs suggest boats, after which the houses seem to have been modelled. Every farmer in this region, it is needless to say, must be aquatic in his habits, and must own and constantly use a boat, or he cannot reach his land at all. Where the water is shallow, the soil has been gathered into beds, like those in a vegetable garden, the surface of which is covered with a thin layer of mud, and the beds being a little above the level of the water. These beds are thickly planted with the indigo plant, which is one of the leading productions of such a region. The only manner in which this soil, rich with the decomposition of vegetable matter, seems to require, is one which is very easily got in abundance, viz., mud. All the narrow channels are filled with mud-crowds, gathering the cheap fertilizer for their water indigo-farms. Each scow is provided with a pair of long bamboo poles, which are set on the edge of the craft, and which work like a pair of scissors. At the end of this bamboo scissors, which is under water, is a pouch of cloth made to contain a large quantity of mud. By a dexterous sweep of his scissors, the boatman plunges the bag deep into the water, and then with a skilful jerk, he gathers it full of ooze, and by an easy swing brings it over the side of his scow, into which it is emptied. Each bag-full is examined to see if it contains any fish, and if this should be the case, a push of the boatman's toe lands the fish in a different compartment of the scow. The mud is delivered at the edge of the indigo plot and distributed evenly over the surface by means of a simple plough. When the indigo is well started, it requires incessant irrigation. The means by which this is accomplished so easily, is an excellent specimen of the ingenious simplicity so common among the Chinese. Three poles are thrust into the water, at the edge of the bed to be watered, in the form of a tripod. This makes a firm support for a trough, by which the water is poured into the required channel. An upright pole firmly planted in the water, supports two smaller ones which act as a sweep, to the end of which is affixed the bucket, by means of which an amazing amount of water can be delivered with great rapidity. The whole apparatus is movable and can be pulled up and fixed in a new place, in less time than it has taken to describe it. Besides the needs already mentioned, and indigo, the marsh yields a kind of rice called *tao-tzu*, and a plant known as *chih-mi*, which has the singular property of enabling him who eats it to remain in a sort of temporary torpor as regards his bodily functions, and is therefore in much request among officials who are to be presented to the Emperor, and who are often kept waiting for a great length of time, during which they dare not stir. The lotus is also cultivated as the water chestnut and other useful plants.

During the intervals of his farming, the cultivator of these water lots has leisure to fish for weeds, which, when dried, furnish all the fuel he requires. In the midst of the marsh, is a market-town of some size, where several firms engaged in the shipment of indigo have their head-quarters. As a large fair was soon to be held in a neighbouring town, many boats were anchored, unloading a variety of goods from Tientsin, through the ordinary traffic is apparently trifling. This market-town is called Chao Pei Kou, and in itself, is really of a mighty past. In the mid of the village stands a plain wooden portal, with an inscription, intimating that this was the ancient boundary between the state of

Yen, to the north, and the state of Chao to the south, in the ancient days when China was divided up into a multitude of petty kingdoms, all in a condition of mutual hostility, one to another. In those days, and long afterward too, the centre of the narrow causeway through the wide marsh, was a barrier and military frontier, not lightly to be passed. It was by this route that the famous Young Lo, son of the founder of the Ming Dynasty, made his way to the north, to see if he could win territory from the Tartars, who had their headquarters in the ancient capital of Kublai Khan. The father of Young Lo had passed him over in the order of succession, and had bestowed the throne on a grandson, named Chien Wan, sending Young Lo northward, that his presence might not embarrass the new administration. It is popularly believed that Young Lo's father allowed him but a trifling force with which to venture on his northward said, but his son was fully equal to the exigency. Gathering his scanty retinue, he told them that they were to take a long and dangerous journey, and that those who wished to see their friends and relatives once more, might send for them, and have a short visit in the camp. Fully appreciating the kindness of their young commander, each man sent for all the friends he could think of, and when they were fully gathered, the prince informed them that it was his intention to avail himself of their kind assistance in his impending attack on the Tartars, whether they thirited for the enterprise or not! "What can be cured, must be endured," and this band of marauders so adroitly collected, marched to an easy victory. When they had got as far as the southern edge of the great marsh, they came upon a city called Mao Chou, which refused to open its gates to the young adventurers, who did not wait to besiege it, but passed on to the capture of the Tartar stronghold, which did not long hold out. When this was made secure, the prince returned to consider the case of Mao Chou, which he captured, and reduced to ruins by causing each soldier to carry off one brick from its extensive wall, leaving a mere bank of earth which still stands to mark the spot. Singularly enough, the name has not been changed, and the place is nominally a Chin city to this day, though in reality nothing but a struggling market-town, noted for nothing but the great annual market held in the fourth moon, the completeness of the display at which has passed into a widely current proverb. It is not easy, however, to see what should give occasion to so large a fair in such an unfavourable situation, for the place is low, and just on the edge of the region of interminable swamps. It should be noted that the young prince, who captured Mao Chou, and subdued the northern Tartars, returned to Nanking, his father's capital, with much prestige, and we are not surprised to hear that he long (1475) succeeded his nephew, and became emperor, as remarked, taking the famous style of Young Lo. It was he who removed the national capital to the new city of Peking, near the site of that known in the Yuan Dynasty, and it is his tomb which surprises the traveller with its magnitude, in the celebrated "Ming Tombs" northwest of Peking. He was a great man in many ways, and we should have been sorry, if he had not succeeded in correcting his father's mistake in passing him over, in favour of a nephew.

The traveller in China, inexperienced (like ourselves) in the details of local life, knowing that China has a great antiquity, is apt to suppose that he shall constantly stumble upon relics of a long-faded past, reaching back at least 1,500 or 2,000 years. In a few exceptional instances, and in certain limited regions, this will no doubt be the case, but not often. It was therefore with peculiar joy, that we heard, that a trifling village called Kuan Chang P'u, a short distance south of the city of Jen Chia, is the traditional site of the first so famous meeting between Kuan Yen Chang, the honoured god of war, Chang Fei, and Liu Pei, in the troublous times of the Three Kingdoms (about A.D. 185). The very site of the "Peach Orchard" where they took their immortal oath of brotherhood, is still pointed out, and is decorated with a temple in honour of the historic event, albeit as our simple-minded informants observed, "the peach-trees are all gone now!" In still another way, were we reminded of the vital existence of the remote past. At every inn, we were assailed with enquiries as to the exact time of the arrival of the "Holy Man," by which was intended the present lineal descendant of the Sage Confucius, who happened to be making his usual visit to Peking. To the untutored foreigners, it certainly appeared singular, that even a "holy man" should select so long, so dusty, and so fatiguing a route to the Capital, when he could have gone nearly all the way by boat with comparative comfort. It is not to be explained by the contempt which according to the classics, the "Superior Man feels for comfort," or tranquillity. On the contrary, it is an ancient and venerated custom in China, that when a person who is demonstrable "holy" turns up, he should be welcomed, not only with cordiality, but that cordiality should take the form of a testimonial! To some extent this is true of all distinguished travellers in China, when their passage through the jurisdiction of local magistrates, and the ports, is a little above the level of the water. These beds are thickly planted with the indigo plant, which is one of the leading productions of such a region. The only manner in which this soil, rich with the decomposition of vegetable matter, seems to require, is one which is very easily got in abundance, viz., mud. All the narrow channels are filled with mud-crowds, gathering the cheap fertilizer for their water indigo-farms. Each scow is provided with a pair of long bamboo poles, which are set on the edge of the craft, and which work like a pair of scissors. At the end of this bamboo scissors, which is under water, is a pouch of cloth made to contain a large quantity of mud. By a dexterous sweep of his scissors, the boatman plunges the bag deep into the water, and then with a skilful jerk, he gathers it full of ooze, and by an easy swing brings it over the side of his scow, into which it is emptied. Each bag-full is examined to see if it contains any fish, and if this should be the case, a push of the boatman's toe lands the fish in a different compartment of the scow. The mud is delivered at the edge of the indigo plot and distributed evenly over the surface by means of a simple plough. When the indigo is well started, it requires incessant irrigation. The means by which this is accomplished so easily, is an excellent specimen of the ingenious simplicity so common among the Chinese. Three poles are thrust into the water, at the edge of the bed to be watered, in the form of a tripod. This makes a firm support for a trough, by which the water is poured into the required channel. An upright pole firmly planted in the water, supports two smaller ones which act as a sweep, to the end of which is affixed the bucket, by means of which an amazing amount of water can be delivered with great rapidity. The whole apparatus is movable and can be pulled up and fixed in a new place, in less time than it has taken to describe it. Besides the needs already mentioned, and indigo, the marsh yields a kind of rice called *tao-tzu*, and a plant known as *chih-mi*, which has the singular property of enabling him who eats it to remain in a sort of temporary torpor as regards his bodily functions, and is therefore in much request among officials who are to be presented to the Emperor, and who are often kept waiting for a great length of time, during which they dare not stir. The lotus is also cultivated as the water chestnut and other useful plants.

During the intervals of his farming, the cultivator of these water lots has leisure to fish for weeds, which, when dried, furnish all the fuel he requires. In the midst of the marsh, is a market-town of some size, where several firms engaged in the shipment of indigo have their head-quarters. As a large fair was soon to be held in a neighbouring town, many boats were anchored, unloading a variety of goods from Tientsin, through the ordinary traffic is apparently trifling. This market-town is called Chao Pei Kou, and in itself, is really of a mighty past. In the mid of the village stands a plain wooden portal, with an inscription, intimating that this was the ancient boundary between the state of

To-day's Advertisements.

PIANOS FOR SALE.

PIANOS ON HIRE.

A. HAHN, PIANO TUNER AND REPAIRER.

OWING to the increasing patronage of the PIANO Tuning Department of my business, I am obliged to give up "Store-keeping" from the 1st of September next. During this month of August, I will, therefore, SELL at REDUCED PRICES, ALI, BRASS, WIN, and STRING INSTRUMENTS, etc. Special arrangements have been made for the SALE of TOYS and FANCY GOODS at an average price of 50 cents cash. The Store will be kept open daily till 8 P.M. Hongkong, 1st August, 1888. [761]

ZETLAND LODGE,
STEAM TO YOKOHAMA, VIA NAGASAKI
AND KOIJE.
(PASSING THROUGH THE INLAND SEA.)
THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship
No. 525.

A REGULAR MEETING of the above LODGE will be held in FREEMASON'S HALL, Zetland Street, THIS EVENING, the 1st August, at 8.30 for 9 o'CLOCK precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited. Hongkong, 1st August, 1888. [778]

THEATRE ROYAL,
CITY HALL, HONGKONG.
TO-MORROW EVENING,
AUGUST 2ND, 1888.

THE AMERICAN MUSICAL COMEDY
AND OPERA COMPANY.
Directors (Mr. PEMBERTON W. WILLARD,
"JOHN F. SHERIDAN,

Will appear as above in
THE FAMOUS MUSICAL COMEDY
IN THREE ACTS, ENTITLED
"FUN ON THE BRISTOL."

CASE OF CHINA TEA,
Widow O'BRIEN,
world renowned ori-
ginal creation..... Mr. JOHN F. SHERIDAN,
Dora McAllister..... Miss VE A PATEY,
Nera O'Brien..... MAUDIE HARVE,
Bella Thompson..... G. WHITEFORD,
Count Menaggio..... Mr. H. M. IMANO,
Captain Cranberry..... A. SUTCH,
Thomas Fisher..... JESSE FISHER,
Richard Sparks..... WHIFFEN-CRIPPS,
Jerry Thompson..... H. HASSAN,
John Lovas..... HAIMES,
Pinkerton Hawkshaw..... J. MANNING.

ACT I.—HOME OF WIDOW O'BRIEN.
ACT II.—SALOON OF SIR "BRISTOL."
ACT III.—NIGHT ON THE OCEAN.

In Act II, a condensed version of "IL TROVATORE" will be introduced.

Conductor..... Mr. J. A. ROBERTSON,
SATURDAY, 4th August, 1888,
LES CLOCHES DES CORNEVILLE."

Prices \$1, \$2, and \$3.
Plan at Messrs. KELLY & WALSH, LTD.
All communications to PEMBERTON W.
WILLARD, Hongkong Hotel.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1888. [748]

BANK HOLIDAY.

IN accordance with Ordinance No. 6 of 1875, the Undermentioned BANKS will be CLOSED for the Transaction of Public Business on MONDAY, the 6th instant.

For the CHARTERED MERCANTILE BANK OF INDIA, LONDON, AND CHINA,
JOHN THURBURN,
Manager, Hongkong.

For the CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA,
AUSTRALIA, AND CHINA,
T. H. WHITEHEAD,
Manager, Hongkong.

For the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
T. JACKSON,
Chief Manager.

For the COMPTOIR D'ESCOMpte DE PARIS,
CHANTREY INCBALD,
Agent, Hongkong.

For the NEW ORIENTAL BANK CORPORATION,
LIMITED,
E. W. RUTTER,
Manager, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1888. [758]

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.

IT has been brought to the notice of the Government that bathing parties frequent Stone Cutters' Island without being duly authorized to do so; and, as this is an offence within the meaning of subsection 3 of section 6 of Ordinance 12 of 1886, persons who do not possess permits from the Colonial Secretary for landing upon the Island are requested to obtain them without delay.

By Command,
FREDERICK STEWART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Hongkong, 31st July, 1888. [759]

HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE ORDINARY HALF-YEARLY MEETING of SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the Offices of the Company, No. 14, Praya Central, on MONDAY, the 27th instant, at 3 P.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, and a Statement of Accounts to 30th June, 1888.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 13th to 27th August, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
D. GILLIES,
Secretary.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1888. [760]

THE "GIBB" LINE.

FOR SYDNEY, MELBOURNE AND
ADELAIDE.
(Calling at PORT DARWIN and taking through
Cargo to QUEENSLAND PORTS, NEW
ZEALAND, TASMANIA, &c.)

THE Steamship

"TANNADICE,"

Captain Shannon, will be despatched for the above Ports, on THURSDAY, the 9th instant, at DAYLIGHT.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
RUSSELL & CO., Agents.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1888. [753]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR NEW ZEALAND PORTS.

THE Company's Steamship

"WHAMPOA,"

Captain Johnson, due shortly with part cargo from Japan, will be despatched as above on or about the 15th instant.

Attention is directed to the Steamer's comfortable Saloon and State Rooms, affording excellent accommodation for First Class Passengers.

To be followed by the S.S. "DELCOMYN" on or about 31st inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, 1st August, 1888. [751]

THE "MOGUL,"

Captain Johnson, due shortly with part cargo from Japan, will be despatched as above on or about the 15th instant.

Attention is directed to the Steamer's comfortable Saloon and State Rooms, affording excellent accommodation for First Class Passengers.

To be followed by the S.S. "DELCOMYN" on or about 31st inst.

For Freight or Passage, apply to
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Managers.

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